

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 PC-04 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 MC-02 RSR-01 /151 W  
----- 113920

R 040705 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4584

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0267

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO

1. HAD LONG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 30. FOREIGN MINISTER RAWIRI HAD ALERTED ME BONGO DISTURBED ABOUT APPARENT LACK OF PROGRESS ON VARIOUS PENDING ISSUES IN GABONESE/ AMERICAN RELATIONS. OUR DISCUSSION OF US ASSISTANCE TO TRANSGABON RAILROAD, BONGO VISIT TO US, FINANCING SUPPORT COSTS OF PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES, AND QUESTION OF ARMS PURCHASES AND ACQUISITION OF PATROL BOAT BORE OUT RAWIRI' S ALERT.

2. ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANSWERS BONGO WAS HOPING TO HEAR, I STRESSED US EFFORTS TO EXPLORE WAYS OF BEING RESPONSIVE AND COUNSELED PATIENCE ON ISSUES STILL PENDING.

3. I EXPLAINED THAT AID COULD NOT TAKE STAND ON TRANS-GABON FINANCING UNTIL IT HAD STUDIED IBRD AND FED REPORTS AND I EXPRESSED HOPE FED REPORT WOULD CONTAIN SUFFICIENT POSITIVE ELEMENTS TO PERMIT AID TO MAINTAIN ITS OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. BONGO COMMENTED THAT FRANCE, FED, GERMANS AND ITALIANS WERE ALL MAINTAINING THEIR  
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OFFERS AND THAT HE WAS COUNTING VERY MUCH ON US. ( FYI  
GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT GERMAN  
DECISION NOT YET OFFICIALLY TAKEN BUT THAT HE FELT  
SURE GERMANS WOULD GO ALONG).

4. ON QUESTION OF ARMS AND PATROL BOAT I EXPLAINED  
THAT CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS PRECLUDED ANYTHING  
OTHER THAN SALE OF ITEMS. I STRESSED ADVANTAGE  
TO GABON OF BEING ADDED TO LIST OF COUNTRIES AUTHORIZED  
TO PURCHASE ARMS FROM USG. BONGO INDICATED FONMIN  
RAWIRI HAD LED HIM TO BELIEVE US GRANTS IN THIS FIELD  
POSSIBLE. I TOLD PRESIDENT THIS UNFORTUNATELY NOT SO  
AND HAD BEEN CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO RAWIRI.

5. MEETING WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT ( MY APPEARANCE ON  
CRUTCHES MAY HAVE HELPED EASE ATMOSPHERE). WHILE  
BONGO OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED AT MY ANSWERS, I THINK  
I CONVINCED HIM THAT, US SEARCHING TO BE RESPONSIVE  
TO GABONESE REQUESTS AND NEEDS. HOPEFULLY I WILL  
HAVE SOMETHING POSITIVE TO TELL HIM SOON.  
MCKESSON

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** RR  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GB  
**To:** AF  
PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
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**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005